

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At the Board Meeting on April 28, Trustees approved the 2020-2021 school year calendars for Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Blackfalds, as well as our year-round St. Patrick's Community School.

We are writing to inform you that for the 2020-2021 school year, we are eliminating embedded professional development Mondays that occurred each week for an hour. Instead, we are implementing five additional full-day professional development days that will occur throughout the year. Professional development will now be scheduled outside of instructional days. This will allow staff to spend a full-day focusing on professional learning to continue to enhance their instructional and assessment strategies to further support students.

When developing school year calendars, our Division has a committee that:

- strives to ensure the number of teacher/student days are maximized to optimize student learning.
- collaborates with other school jurisdictions in our region to take into consideration holidays, professional development days and busing considerations to best meet the needs of students, staff and parents.
- focuses on faith by ensuring there is a Division opening celebration and a separate professional development day for staff to learn about their faith.

Thank you for your continued support,

God bless,



Kathleen Finnigan

Interim Superintendent of Schools